

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2019

Mr. Jonathan Greenblatt
Chief Executive Officer and Director
Anti-Defamation League
605 3rd Avenue, New York, NY 10158

Dear Mr. Greenblatt,

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) known collectively as the Congressional Tri-Caucus respectfully urges the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to reconsider Rep. Randy Weber's (TX-14) America's Democratic Legacy Award in light of him yelling "Build the wall!" on the House floor during debate for H.R. 6, the *American Dream and Promise Act of 2019*. Rep. Weber made the exclamation—at least two times—within hours of personally collecting the Award for his role on the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combatting Anti-Semitism. History shows that anti-immigrant sentiment and anti-Semitism go hand in hand and regrettably we are witnessing a rise in hate speech and hate crimes toward communities of color, Muslims, immigrants, and Jews. The Congressional Tri-Caucus has repeatedly joined many civil rights organizations in condemning discrimination and hate speech that conjures nationalist attitudes. Therefore, we ask the ADL to publicly condemn Rep. Weber's language and reconsider his receipt of the prestigious America's Democratic Legacy Award.

At the time of Rep. Weber's exclamations, Rep. Joe Neguse (CO-2) was formally addressing the House Chamber to express his unique appreciation for this country and the freedom it afforded to him as the son of two African immigrants. Rep. Neguse shared his family's immigrant experience in support of legislation that extends legal protections for child migrants and asylum-seekers. It is deeply unfortunate that this powerful moment was punctuated by calls to build the wall along the southern border, where children are currently being held in cages and a humanitarian crisis is taking place.

While the ADL has informed the CHC that Rep. Weber issued a private apology retracing his remarks, we find his apology to be insufficient and misleading. He misrepresented the Republican's Motion to Recommit (MTR) to justify his hate speech. The MTR did not include any additional funding for border security. The MTR in question sought to expand the use of controversial gang databases in an effort to disqualify more immigrants from gaining citizenship. This is not the first time Rep. Weber has made inappropriate and divisive comments. In 2015, the ADL was also made aware of a tweet by Rep. Weber comparing President Obama unfavorably to Adolf Hitler. Rep. Weber later issued an apology for his tweet.

The Anti-Defamation League established the American's Democratic Legacy Award to recognize "those precious few individuals who have helped make our nation a place where freedom, equality and democracy are cherished rights forever." Past recipients include President John F. Kennedy, President Ronald Reagan, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. With such distinguished company, we expect the ADL to use the highest-level of scrutiny in bestowing their most esteemed

award. Rep. Weber's actions on the House floor fail to demonstrate his commitment to making this nation a place of freedom, equality, and democracy for all people.

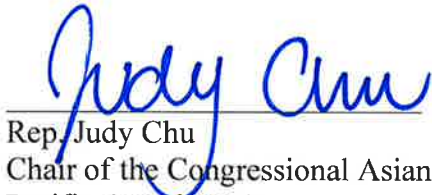
Rep. Weber's conduct and his subsequent apology suggest that he does not embody the values underlying America's Democratic Legacy Award. We urge the Anti-Defamation League to publicly rebuke Rep. Weber's actions and reconsider his receipt of this award.

Enclosed please find an attachment that includes information on Rep. Weber's 2015 tweet. If you have any questions, please contact our Executive Director, Alma Acosta at alma.acosta@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Rep. Joaquin Castro
Chair of the Congressional
Hispanic Caucus



Rep. Judy Chu
Chair of the Congressional Asian
Pacific American Caucus



Rep. Karen Bass
Chair of the Congressional Black
Caucus



ADL  @ADL · 13 Jan 2015



#ADL welcomes apology from Rep. Randy Weber for remarks comparing President Obama to Hitler --> adl.org/press-center/p...



ADL News @ADL_News · 13 Jan 2015



Rep. Randy Weber's apology is an important acknowledgement that his tweet was hurtful >> ow.ly/HhoDP #ADL

